GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:459
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2003
FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(b) whether the Government has not yet been able to achieve the objective of free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years despite spending crores of rupees for the purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of children up to the age of 14 years that still remain to be educated;

(d) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the comments made in the Third Report of C&AG forthe year 2002 in this regard: and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OFHUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIST OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E)OF THE LOKSABHASTARRED QUESTION NO 459 TO BI ANSWERED ON 22ND APRIL 2003 BY SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI REGARDING FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

(a) to (c): Out of a child population of 19.2 crore in the age-group 6-14 years projected by the Registrar General of India for the year 2001 ,15.7 crore children were enrolled in schools as on 30th Sept. 2000, as reported in the Selected Educational Statistics 2000-2001 brought out by this Ministry. The reasons for non-enrolment o f school children include habitations not having facilities for education, socio-economic factors preventing children from going to schools and children dropping out of school after getting enrolled.

(d) & (e) The view of the Government is that in order to redress the situation free and compulsory education for the children in the age group 6-14 should be a Fundamental Right . Accordingly Constitution 86th Amendment Act, 2002 has been enacted. The Government has also launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as a National Programme to achieve thegoal of Universalisation of Elementary Education in a Mission mode in partnership with States. This programme focuses, in particular, on the educational need of girls, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, Minorities Urban deprived children and other children in difficult circumstances.